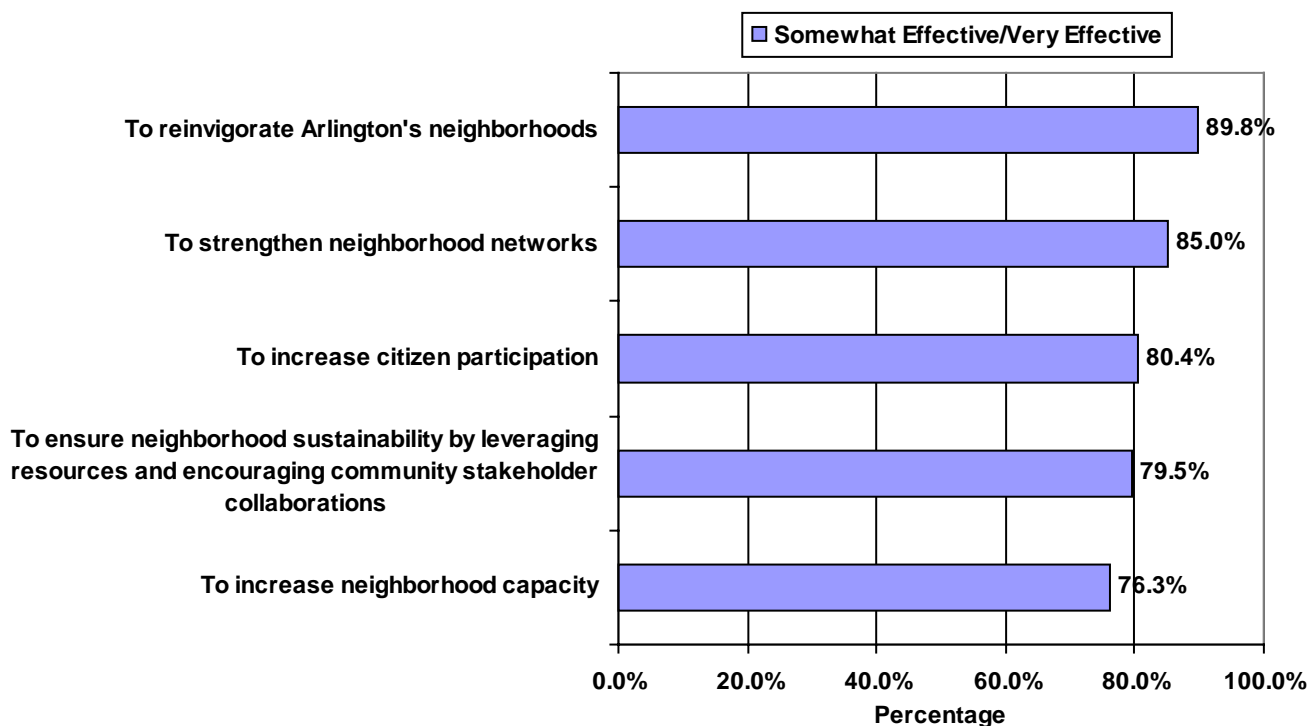




## **2007 Arlington Strong Neighborhood Initiative Citizen Evaluation Results**

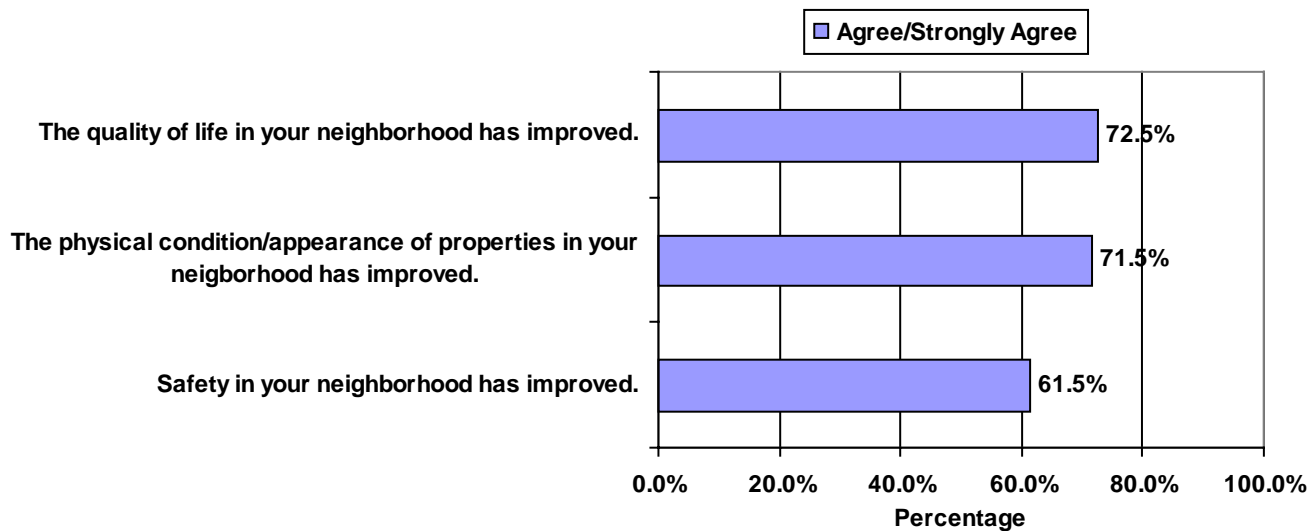
### **ASNI Goals and Objectives**

**1. Please tell us how effective the programs have been in making progress toward reaching the goals and objectives of ASNI over the past year.**



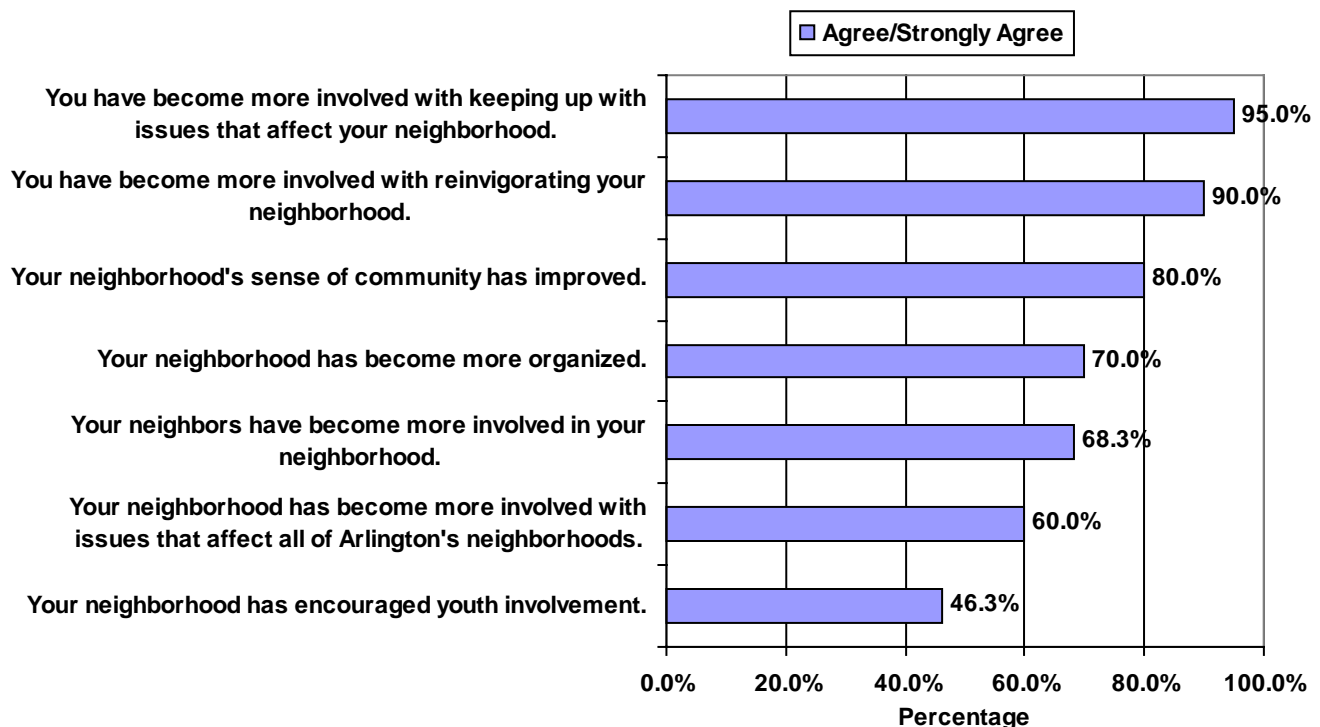
### **Quality of Life in Your Neighborhood**

**2. Using your experience with ASNI programs, please respond to the following questions based on how things have changed in your neighborhood over the past year.**



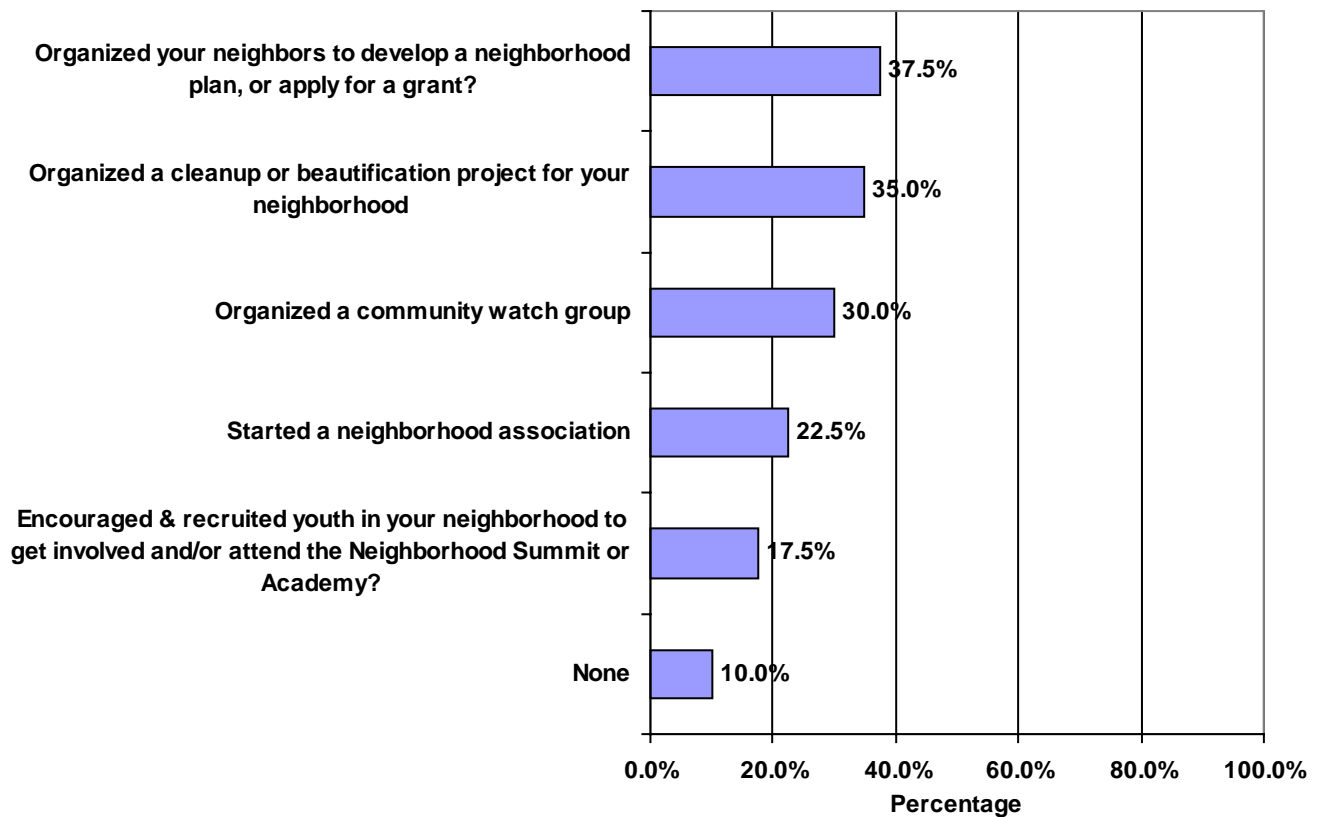
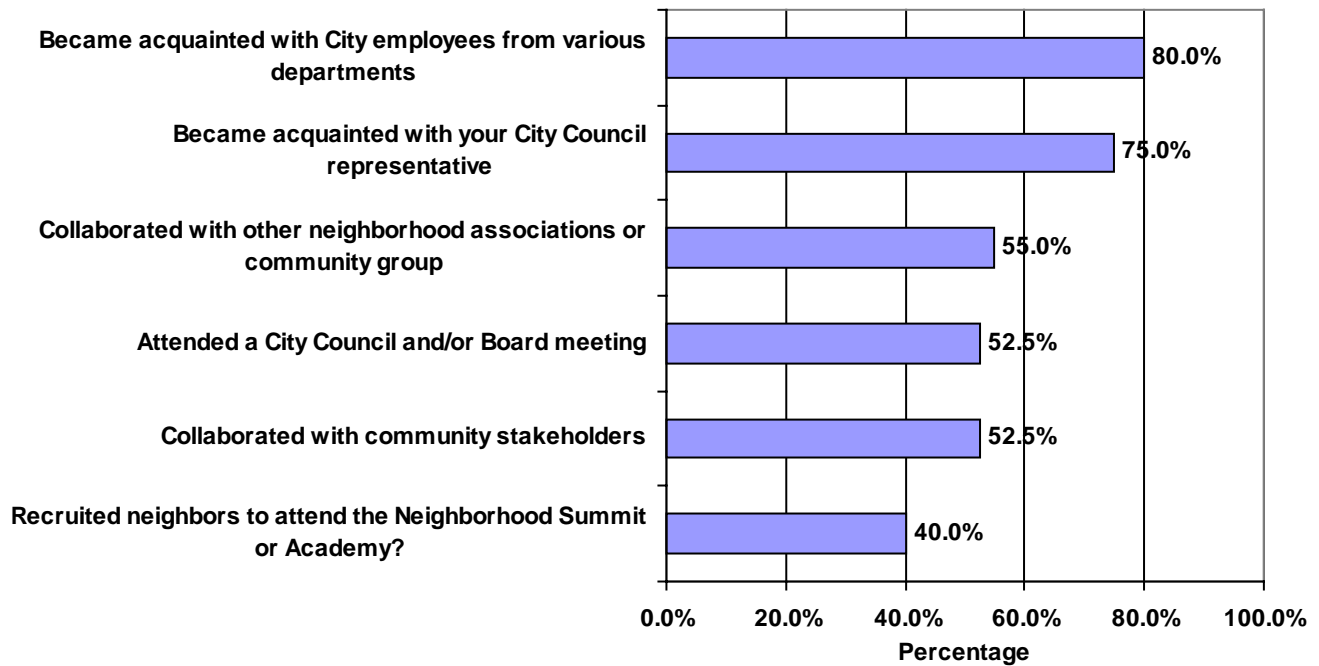
### **You and Your Neighborhood Involvement**

**3. Using your experience with ASNI programs, please respond to the following questions based on how you and your neighborhood have become involved over the past year.**



### **Personal Civic Responsibility**

**4. In the past year, have you as an individual done any of the following?**



**5. If you have started a neighborhood association in the past year, what is the name of it?**

- Valley Spring Neighborhood
- Rolling Hills Neighborhood Assoc.
- Briarhill
- Briarwood Estates Neighborhood Association
- Heart of Arlington Neighborhood Association
- Jogger Patrol
- The Crossing at Ruidosa Ridge
- HANA
- Oak Hill
- Briarhill Neighborhood Association
- Knottingham Estates C/W

**6. I am a member of a:**

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| • Neighborhood/Homeowner's Association        | 40.0% |
| • Neighborhood Organization                   | 30.0% |
| • Faith-Based Organization                    | 10.0% |
| • Neighborhood Academy Graduate Class of 2007 | 32.5% |
| • Neighborhood Community Watch Group          | 42.5% |
| • Neighborhood Citizens on Patrol Group       | 17.5% |
| • None of the Above                           | 15.0% |

**7. I participated in:**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • 2006 Neighborhood Summit                         | 65% |
| • 2007 Neighborhood Academy                        | 45% |
| • Spring 2007 Neighborhood Matching Grants Program | 30% |
| • Fall 2007 Neighborhood Matching Grants Program   | 5%  |

**Comments/Suggestions**

**8. Please provide any recommendations you have for improvement of the Arlington Strong Neighborhood Initiative.**

- We must address the litter issue. It is a blight on Arlington. Must be City sponsored with recycling to the fullest degree.
- Organization would be key. I'm currently a neighborhood coordinator, but the coordinators as a group are not very organized and I feel like communication between us and the City is very little.
- Have asked for our police officer to come to our last two neighborhood association meetings and both times they had to cancel. Would really like to speak with police about specific problems in our neighborhood.
- Southeast Arlington needs more work with enforcing code violations. Maybe engage in an educational campaign of what is appropriate to report and what isn't.
- Public Safety sorely lacking in S.E. Arlington. Desperately need litter pickup crews and street sweepers. Need heftier fines for littering and signs posted to that effect.
- The requirements should be changed that currently require an organization to be a 501c3 to receive funds. Needs to allow other non profit groups to participate and possibly become a 501c3.
- The neighborhood association and grant process application process appeared overwhelming. As a community watch group leader, I did not ever attempt the application process for that reason. I just barely make time for the CWG, much less trying to run a small community inside the community. If it were somewhat easier to deal with, we might reconsider.
- National Night Out was/is great - park improvements are moving along nicely.
- Somehow take the message out of the city building and into the churches, civic organizations, counseling centers, etc. because it is a great program and needs more publicity.
- Offer one short workshop session covering bylaws, board structure (positions) and other helpful hints, such as ethics of board members.

- Faster response to reported code violations and updates of the status of these violations.
- Having more activities like the academy offered more frequently. Also, it would be nice to learn the resources offered in the city of Arlington. There should be more opportunities for more residents to become involved. Publicizing the academy and other city programs even more would be helpful.
- Clean arlington up!!! The crime rate is increasing dramatically and it needs to be solved!!!!
- Continuing to provide more effective code enforcement and follow-up to confirm adherence to city ordinances.
- Continue to hold the Neighborhood Academy.
- Assisting in an increased networking process between citizens. This would also be nice in assisting individuals and groups of citizens to develop ways to interface with city departments.
- Add neighborhood leaders' quarterly meeting for the purpose of improving the neighborhood network. Keep requirement of 501c3 partnership for grantees. Any other option would create trouble for organizations and the city in the long run. Neighborhood Council should not oversee grants for organizations, but instead represent the interest of neighborhoods in general, especially those lacking the capacity to get and stay involved.
- Council, please get the rest of staff motivated about neighborhoods in the same way RJ is. Tell your Parks Director to stop being so negative and tell your Assistant City Manager of Neighborhood Services to leave neighborhood visits to the Neighborhood Coordinator. He just does not have the personality, nor does he have the experience of neighborhoods and should never be the face of this initiative. When he visited a Parks board meeting, he was totally clueless of the initiative efforts and was not able to answer questions or provide the insight needed to motivate others to get involved. I remember him from Irving and his only concern then, as I am sure it is now, is the Fire Department. Last thing, have a Neighborhood Academy specifically for staff only starting with assistant city managers then with directors and finally with front line staff.
- It would be helpful to give specific information on specific grants and things that could be accomplished and how.
- You don't value our time at these events. They don't seem well-organized, nor move along. That is exactly why I did not come this year. When people bring up a legit concern, maybe not the focus of that specific forum, but valid, you should note it and get back in touch with that caring person. That is a passionate person with vigor and energy. Some were left flapping in the breeze.
- Keep it in the media as much as possible. Use current neighborhood associations to encourage the establishment of others. Perhaps there could be a "round up" of established neighborhood associations whereby those of us trying to establish one could attend and get help and support.
- Effective publicity is a continuing problem/challenge with any Arlington-based organization with which I've ever been affiliated post-Citizen-Journal days. It requires, I've found consistency, so the reader connects continuing efforts & stubbornness, if you will.
- I feel like we need to address the growing amount of trash and litter in Arlington. I don't know what can be done, but in the 20 years I have lived in Arlington, I have never seen it messier.
- There was a stronger push to become a 501c3/HOA instead of encouraging partnership with other 501c3 in existence. ASNI might look into bridging relationships with existing 501c3's looking to be involved in the community & partnering with a subdivision. It is exciting to see the City of Arlington become interested and encourage neighborhood beautification and action in community involvement.
- Need to have on-going sessions between the officers of the various associations in Arlington.
- Provide more opportunities for networking between communities. Help facilitate matching neighborhood groups with other stakeholders like businesses, developers, foundations, etc. Emphasis on place-making and leveraging community involvement to facilitate smarter growth decisions for Arlington.
- As a resident of an apartment community, I try to work to encourage others to be involved and concerned. I wish the area (North) had more activities, gyms, recreation and job training centers to help people who want to better themselves. I wish we had enough funding to have a substation for the police in areas of need. This area (around Washington/Collins) could benefit. I would like to add my councilman, Mel Leblanc has done as much as anyone to get people involved. I thank him for his continued prayers and spirit.
- Schedule occasional follow up meetings of academy graduates and/or neighborhood summit participants where active neighborhood organizations can give progress reports on their successful activities, or have several group discussion break out sessions to focus on common issues or problems and share information. You might consider starting a separate tract for HOA members, since they have specific issues and problems unique to their organizations.

**9. If you have any other comments regarding the Arlington Strong Neighborhood Initiative, please let us know.**

- Keep up the excellent work and fight for all the funds available. GO RJ you ROCK!!!!
- Great work done by the program city-wide. The City Manager took it one step further by allocating funds to support implementation of various arms within the ASNI program. Also great that a new person was hired to help RJ.

- I know that this program is in its infancy and truly believe it will continue to grow and encourage residents to improve its neighborhoods.
- Ideas how to get youth involved. Ideas for beautification of rental/lease houses.
- More notice needs to be given as to when grant funding is available. I am not sure why additional staff is needed from what I have seen, other than to possibly respond to customer inquiries. Personally, I think most of the money would be better spent towards the rehab of homes or down payment assistance.
- Since all my neighborhood did was organize a CWG, I cannot honestly say we have seen any direct benefit from the ASNI. We primarily deal with the APD and our Councilperson. I'm not even sure I know what ASNI offers outside the grant programs. Sorry, but I figured you would want the truth.
- Keep up the good work.
- View my responses in light of the fact that I did not complete the program because it no longer applied to me. I was there to gain information for my students at UTA, not my neighborhood (in Grand Prairie!). RJ was extremely helpful.
- Thank you for offering a historic preservation module in 2007.
- RJ Blair is doing a fantastic job!
- Need to keep the program going and get more people involved.
- I was part of the original initiative, and I must say that this one is 20 times better. I appreciate the youth involvement piece and I really have enjoyed RJ's vast knowledge, experience and ability to get me and my neighbors charged and interested in staying connected to City Hall. Mr. Holgersson, When you read this comment, please know that you have managed to do at least one thing right in my book: You hired RJ Blair and brought back a critical part of city services: the neighborhood initiative. If either go away, Arlington will be at a huge loss.
- RJ - thank you for the work you do in the Arlington community. When you're ready to move to Arlington, me and my neighbors will host a block party for you. Keep the excitement building.
- Thanks for the Neighborhood Matching Grants Program.
- I was displeased with last year's summit and I don't think very much of this program. It was a big pep rally. A group of people talked and nothing was accomplished. I felt like I was being talked down to and I don't think anyone gained anything from the experience. Its all talk and no action.
- I was a super-volunteer, 5 offices, glad to speak, help others, do anything asked, for any group. You should identify those that want to give back and encourage and coach and mentor. I saw none of that and I and others burned out. I stopped all volunteering in your arena totally.
- I feel this push to help strengthen neighborhoods has helped. We had a lot of problems with a couple of houses/people in our neighborhood and organizing a community watch group has helped. It cut down on the truant teenagers hanging around. It also helped to find out who my neighbors are and everyone is watching out for everyone else.
- Need more assistance in the ASNI, one person can't do it all. Or perhaps designate liaisons in each department for points of contact.
- Can the code enforcement specialists check in and on apartment stairwells (North)/Washington Dr a bit more regularly? I know the code inspectors are busy, but somehow some managers become a bit lax. Maybe property owners can be approached by suggesting that we keep "Green Space" green and clean....thank you.
- Great leadership! Great programs!
- Strong Website. Academy Class is a great starting place, most citizens who started out in the class during week one did not return for fear of total commitment to a project at the end. Most just did not understand fully what was expected of them. This was in no way the fault of any narrator, official city representative or the programs designed to give citizens the opportunity to become engaged and invigorated, to help other citizens in their communities. You tend to get something in return, for being involved in your neighborhood and city. Place no expectation on others, if you do not intend to engage and stay involved.